

From: Will Price
Sent: Monday, July 04, 2005 2:44 PM
To: Sajac, Virginia
Cc: mlytle
Subject: July 12 Meeting on the California Water Plan

Virginia,

As a member of your Extended Review Forum, I have seen the many messages you have sent on the Water Plan so I am anxious to hear the discussion on July 12 in Sacramento. Also as Vice Chair of San Joaquin County's Advisory Water Commission, I am anxious to offer some personal comments.

For now, my main criticism is that, at least for the documents I have seen, there is no Strategic Plan. Such a plan would have specific objectives and measurable outcomes. While you are not be able to detail projects, you can suggest planning targets and performance results for our water systems, including expectations for alternative sources of supply, system operations(particularly with flood flows and droughts), usage behavior and enforceable quality standards.

Production and consumption innovation is essential, yet little specifics in this arena appear to date. We are stuck with the same "wars" over water rights and long held habits while we experience "demand inflation" and hardly any "supply inflation". How confident are you of future water demand estimates, how much uncertainty is in our forecasts? I would value an explanation of the methodology the State is using for water consumption predictions.

I have recently made two trips to Dubai in the UAE, where I was expecting huge water issues and challenges. Instead I heard little debate in the Emirates, for it is all desalinization. California's large metropolitan and coastal areas will soon learn that lesson.

I will encourage other members of our Commission and our lead staff to participate on July 12. I thank you for the long effort to prepare this plan, I just hope it is not yet finalized.

Will Price, PhD, PE
Professor of Operations and Engineering Management
University of the Pacific;
and Vice Chair, San Joaquin County Advisory Water Commission